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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 2 September 1952

SUBJECT Alleged Russian Research Institute in
East Berlin

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1. In April 1952 eleven scientists, a female interpreter, and an office staff of two persons arrived in East Berlin from the USSR. There they proceeded to occupy a large, two-story building, with surrounding grounds, at Berlin-Friedrichsfelde, Wilhelmstrasse 6.
2. The head of this group of scientists is a Professor Zoshchkin (sic) (phonetic).
3. In late April 1952 the house was guarded by the People's Police.
4. The work of these scientists appeared to be carried on in a greenhouse and attached conservatory on the grounds. The greenhouse contained new garden tools, an unspecified number of microscopes, and about seven tall glasses in which various plants were growing. the plants appeared to include potatoes.

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5. this institute¹ may be concerned with agricultural research and cites the following reasons:

- a. Professor Zoshchkin remarked that the Russian Government was concerned at the eastward spread of the Colorado beetle. He implied further that the spread of the beetle was one of his current interests.
- b. The institute is allegedly working on the cause of a disease that has affected German workers using cotton imported from the USSR.

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6. In connection with the research on cotton, a high government official, concerned with the textile industry, has stated that several hundred women employed in the cotton mills of Thuringia were taken ill in late April 1952; two women died. The symptoms were said to be swollen lungs and a bluish skin.²
7. All the cotton was destroyed when the institute had made its investigation.

1. Comment. This report, on the face of it, appears improbable since there have been no Russian research institutes in Germany, aside from Wismut A.G., for many years. 50X1-HUM

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2. Comment. [redacted] from 18 February to 3 March 1952, 54 out of 503 employees of Baumwollspinnerei und Zwirnerei Lengenfeld (VVB Baumwollspinnerei) were allergic to the cotton and became ill. The symptoms were headaches, pains in the limbs and back, loss of appetite and, after two or three days, a sudden rise in temperature to 102.2 - 103.1° F. Lengenfeld is in Saxony near the borders of Thuringia.

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